

## 278 ÉMILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND REFOKMER

scarcely begun when a faint stir among the public brought a loud cry of " Silence!" from the ushers. Ernest Vizetelly, who was seated at the solicitors' table, then turned and perceived several French newspaper correspondents and others striving to preserve their gravity, which had been disturbed by the curious manner in which Sir Edward Clarke pronounced the French names confronting Mm in the pages of " The Soil." For a time one might have imagined he was reading a novel of the kail-yard, for he persistently pronounced "Jean" as if it were a Scottish name. For instance:

" There was a lass, and she was fair,  
At kirk and market to be seen;  
When a' the-fairest maids were met,  
The fairest maid was bonnie Jean."<sup>1</sup>

The effect was the more curious as in Zola's book Jean, of course, is a man, whereas from Sir Edward Clarke's pronunciation it might have been inferred that he was a woman! However, the slaughter of French names did not continue long. The jurymen expressed their views clearly enough by interrupting a passage describing how the girl Francoise Mouche brings the cow, La Coliche, to the bull at the farm of La Borderie. The mere idea that such a thing could happen evidently amazed and disgusted them; but their surprise would probably have been less great

if, instead of  
being Londoners, they had been yokels from,  
the country,  
for, as various correspondents informed the  
writer subsequent  
to the trial, instances of the same kind could  
have been  
easily adduced from different parts of the  
United Kingdom,  
notably "Wales.

<sup>1</sup> "The Poetical "Works of Eobert Barns/" Aldine Edition,  
Vol. II, p. 226